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PATENT

#16/C  
7-17-02  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hien D. Ma et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: Method and Apparatus for Providing  
Prepaid Music Card for Deciphering  
Recorded Broadcast Audio Signals



: Group Art Unit:

: Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED  
JUL 16 2002  
GROUP 3600

Prior to the first Office Action, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 13 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for recording and playing a digital signal, comprising:
- a receiver for receiving an encrypted digital signal comprising a broadcast segment;
  - a buffer connected to said receiver for storing at least part of said digital signal as it is being received;
  - a recorder connected to said receiver for recording onto a first recording medium said encrypted digital signal in response to a user request if a beginning of said broadcast segment is in said buffer;
  - a player for playing said first recording medium and connected to a card reader;
- and